## **PROCESS CHANGE/NEW KNOWLEDGE**

## TOPIC 1: C. Diff Testing Criteria PC.255

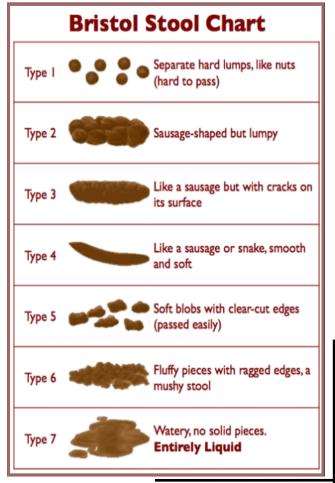
The **New** C. Diff. policy is intended to help staff establish appropriate criteria for C. Diff testing. It offers a guide for nursing on the type of stool that is considered an acceptable sample for testing. **Collect all stool samples in an empty specimen container**. **FYI: Do not send a stool sample for a test of cure, it is not necessary!** 

## **Testing inclusion Criteria:**

- \* 3 or more loose and watery stools in 24 hours
- Stool should be liquid in consistency
- \* Documentation of the presence of at least one of the following:
  - \* Abdominal cramps, tenderness, or pain
  - Temperature >38 degrees C (100 degrees F), oral temp preferred
  - \* Radiologic evidence of colitis

## Exclusion criteria (Do not test if):

- Stool is formed or semi-formed (refer to the Bristol Stool chart located in Appendix 1 of the policy)
- Patient has had1 or more doses of a laxative, stool softener, enema or bowel prep
- Positive C. Diff in the past 21 days
- Negative C. Diff in the past 7 days





October 18, 2017